

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 OMB-01

EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /112 W

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R 191240Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1169

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KE, UG, US, UK, IS

SUBJECT: WAR OF WORDS CONTINUES BETWEEN KENYA AND UGANDA

1. SUMMARY: GOK SPOKESMEN HAVE INTENSIFIED EFFORTS TO REASSURE PUBLIC KENYA CAN PROTECT ITSELF, IN RESPONSE TO CONTINUED AMIN BLUSTERING. GOK HAS APPREHENDED ALLEGED AMIN SPIES IN KENYA AND CONTINUES TO DENY ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOTTLENECK OF SUPPLIES FOR LAND-LOCKED UGANDA. END SUMMARY.

2. NEW BARRAGE OF MEDIA EFFORTS TO COUNTER AMIN THREAT BEGAN WITH TOUGH STATEMENT BY DEFENCE MINISTER JAMES GICHURU REPORTED IN JULY 17 NAIROBI NEWSPAPERS. GICHURU SAID KENYA IS CAPABLE OF DEFENDING ITSELF, AND IF UGANDAN SOLDIERS "DARED ENTER EVEN AN INCH OF KENYAN TERRI-

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TORY, THEY WILL BE CRUSHED AND THEY WILL BE HELD

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES." GICHURU SAID KENYA WOULD NOT ATTACK FIRST, BUT IF ATTACKED WOULD REACT STRONGLY.

3. GICHURU SPOKE AGAIN JULY 18 TO DENY RADIO UGANDA CHARGE THAT TWO KENYA FIGHTER AIRCRAFT WERE DETECTED CROSSING INTO UGANDA. GICHURU WAS ALSO REPORTED IN NAIROBI PRESS AS WARNING THAT IF UGANDA AIR FORCE CAPABLE OF REACHING MOMBASA, AS CLAIMED ON RADIO UGANDA, "WE WELCOME THEM TO DO SO." GICHURU ALSO DENIED AMIN CLAIM THAT KENYA IS "IN THE POCKETS" OF BRITIAN, ISRAEL, AND AMERICA. HE SAID KENYA AS A COUNTRY "IS FRIENDLY TO THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS WHO HAVE NOT PROMISED US ANYTHING."

4. VOICE OF KENYA JULY 18 CARRIED SPECIAL RADIO AND TV HALF-HOUR PROGRAM BILLED AS RESPONSE TO AMIN "HATE CAMPAIGN." PROGRAM INCLUDED INTERVIEWS WITH KENYANS JUST FLED FROM UGANDA AND DENIALS OF NUMEROUS AMIN ALLEGATIONS.

5. IT WAS ANNOUNCED ON VOK SPECIAL THAT SEVEN ALLEGED UGANDAN SPIES HAD BEEN ARRESTED "NEAR VITAL INSTALLATIONS" AND CHARGES MAY BE PREFERRED AFTER INVESTIGATION. VOK PROGRAM ALSO REFUTED AMIN CLAIM THAT BRITISH, AMERICAN AND ISRAELI MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE IN KENYA.

6. COMMENT: KENYA NEWS MEDIA HAVE NOT RPT NOT MENTIONED IN ANY WAY PRESENCE OF NAVY P-3'S IN NAIROBI OR TASK FORCE IN INDIAN OCEAN. ARRIVAL OF USS BEARY WAS TREATED VERY LOW PROFILE AS ROUTINE VISIT. END COMMENT.

7. VOK HAS REPORTED THAT LIBYA HAS ADMITTED SENDING MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO UGANDA, DESPITE AMIN'S DENIAL.

8. VICE PRESIDENT MOI DENIED JULY 18 THAT KENYA HAS INTERFERED WITH OR STOPPED TRANSPORTATION OF FOOD-STUFF AND OIL TO UGANDA. HE SAID UGANDA'S LACK OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE WITH WHICH TO BUY ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIES IS UGANDA'S PROBLEM AND KENYA CANNOT BE BLAMED. MOI ALSO REITERATED THAT KENYA READY FOR ANY CONFRONTATION WITH UGANDA OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY THREATENING ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

9. COMMENT: AMIN JULY 16 HAD CHARGED THAT KENYA IS PREVENTING 200 VEHICLES CARRYING OIL AND OTHER COMMODITIES TO UGANDA. HE APPEALED TO GOK TO "CHANGE ITS

ATTITUDE AND ALLOW A FREE FLOW OF GOODS." END COMMENT.

10. IT WAS ANNOUNCED JULY 18 THAT UGANDAN PILOTS
WORKING WITH EAST AFRICAN AIRWAYS HAVE BEEN BANNED FROM
FLYING OVER KENYA'S AIRSPACE. THIS MOVE FOLLOWED BY
THREE DAYS A GOK ANNOUNCEMENT ORDERING 123 UGANDAN
EAA EMPLOYEES WORKING AT EMBAKASI AIRPORT NAIROBI TO
GIVE UP THEIR JOBS IN ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT. IT WAS
ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT KENYAN CREWS OF EAST AFRICAN
RAILWAYS WILL DISEMBARK FROM TRAINS AT BORDER POST
MELABA STARTING THIS WEEK, BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTY
GETTING KENYA CREWS TO DRIVE INTO UGANDA.

DECON 1/1/77
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